

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed August 2, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 29, 30 and 32 are pending. In particular, Applicants have amended claim 29 and have canceled claim 31 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Examiner Interview

Applicants wish to express their appreciation for the time the Examiner spent with Applicants' attorney, Jim Kayden, during a telephone discussion on December 15, 2004, regarding the outstanding Office Action. During the interview, agreement was reached that independent claim 29 (as currently amended) is patentable over U.S. Patent Number 5,934,184 to Schlosser, *et al.* ("*Schlosser*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,677,964 to Lohmeyer, *et al.* ("*Lohmeyer*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,065,734 to Elliott ("*Elliot*") and U.S. Patent No. 1,582,346 to Oster ("*Oster*").

II. Claims 29, 30 and 32 are Patentable over Schlosser in View of Lohmeyer and Further in View of Elliott and Oster

The Office Action rejected claims 29-32 under §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over *Schlosser* in view of *Lohmeyer*, and further in view of *Elliot and Oster*. In that claim 31 has been canceled, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection as to this claim is moot and should be withdrawn.


As noted above, with reference to the Examiner Interview, Examiner Price has indicated claim 29, as amended, is allowable over any combination of *Schlosser*, *Lohmeyer*, *Elliot*, and *Oster*. Accordingly, Applicants thank the Examiner for allowance of claim 29.

Claims 30 and 32 depend from allowable independent claim 29. Applicants respectfully submit that, for at least the reason that claims 30 and 32 depend from allowable independent claim 29, claims 30 and 32 are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of dependent claims 30 and 32.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance, and request that the Examiner pass this case to issuance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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